



# NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY  
WESTERN DISTRICT OF MISSOURI

**TODD P. GRAVES**

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **OREGON MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO POSSESSING 39 KILOGRAMS OF COCAINE**

**SPRINGFIELD, Mo.** – Todd P. Graves, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that a Portland, Ore., man pleaded guilty in federal court today to possession with intent to distribute a large quantity of cocaine.

**Margarito Guerrero**, 36, of Portland, pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Richard E. Dorr this afternoon to the charge contained in a Feb. 25, 2004, federal indictment.

By pleading guilty, **Guerrero** admitted that he was in possession with intent to distribute 39 kilograms of cocaine on March 4, 2003.

**Guerrero** was arrested on March 4, 2003, when the tractor/trailer he was driving from California, was stopped at a weigh station near Strafford, Mo. Law enforcement officers discovered 39 heavily taped and wrapped packages, each containing approximately one kilogram of cocaine, inside two large duffle bags laying on the floor beneath the bed in the sleeping berth area.

Under federal statutes, **Guerrero** could be subject to a minimum mandatory sentence of 10 years in federal prison without parole, up to life imprisonment, plus a fine up to \$4 million. His sentence will be determined according to the United States Sentencing Guidelines. A sentencing hearing will be scheduled after the completion of a presentence investigation by the United States Probation Office.

This case is being prosecuted by Special Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly R. Weber Dean. It was investigated by the Drug Enforcement Administration and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

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This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at  
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